

920602-99890

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE THE APPLICATION OF)	
)	
Robertson, Graham)	Examiner: Madeline Gonzalez
)	
SERIAL NO.: 10/543,042)	Art Unit: 1797
)	
FILED: July 21, 2005)	Customer Number: 23644
)	
FOR: Filtering Screen)	Confirmation Number: 9184

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 29, 2008

Honorable Director of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Response is being filed in view of the Examiner's Office Action of May 29, 2008. No claim amendments are being made since none are believed to be required, as explained below.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ferrante U.S. Patent No. 2,425,235. Claims 5-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferrante. Reconsideration is requested, since it is submitted that the screen defined by independent claim 1, and dependent claims 2-10, is neither anticipated by or disclosed or suggested by Ferrante.

Claim 1 relates to an "integral screen". As defined in the second paragraph on page 2 of the specification, an integral screen is one in which the mesh and frame are integrated by bonding the mesh to the support frame. Ferrante merely refers to securing the sheet of screening material to the frame "in any suitable manner" without specific reference to any form of bonding.

Claim 1 further specifies that the wire cloth is tensioned and bonded to its support structure. There is no reference in Ferrante to tensioning the sheet of screening material across its frame.

Furthermore, claim 1 requires the cloth to be orientated so that the warp wires extend across the shorter dimension of the rectangular support structure, and the weft wires extend across the longer dimension. While Ferrante depicts a sheet of screening material in Figure 2 and identifies the warp and weft wires, there is no indication of how these wires will be orientated with respect to frame 11 in a finished filter.

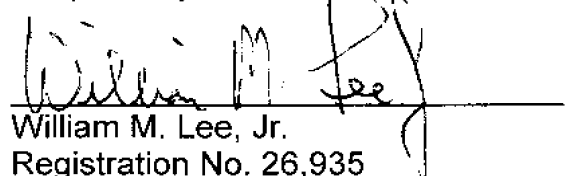
As discussed in the first paragraph on page 5 and the last paragraph on page 6 of the application as originally filed, prior to the claimed invention there was a widely held belief that the warp wires should run parallel to the longer dimension of a rectangular frame. Ferrante is, if anything, consistent with this practice in that the warp wires 13 shown in Figure 2 are parallel to the longer dimension of the filter shown in Figure 1. There is nothing in Ferrante to point the reader away from this conventional orientation of the cloth relative to its support frame and to the configuration of claim 1.

It is therefore submitted that claim 1 clearly distinguishes from Ferrante and is allowable thereover. The Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration of the claim is therefore urged. As claims 2-10 depend from claim 1, while they add additional features not found in Ferrante, given their dependency, it is submitted that the claims are allowable, as well.

The Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore urged.

August 20, 2008

Respectfully submitted,



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